

From: mark_hoffman@notes.teradyne.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/2/02 1:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Re: Public comment

I am a professional user of computers with little personal interest in the settlement of the Microsoft case. I am not an expert on law or on this case. I do believe that Microsoft is effectively a monopoly and is not serving the general public well. Also, they seem to have not changed their ways since the suit was first brought.

I don't think that the proposed settlement sufficiently addresses the problems that make it difficult for competitors to offer users a choice.

As I see it the issues are

It should be easier for other companies to integrate their products into the OS.

It should be easier to get bugs acknowledged and fixed.

Security should be a higher priority and better.

It would be a great help if the application part of Microsoft were split off from the OS part. The application part would be on equal footing with other application companies to get information and bug fixes from the OS part of Microsoft. The companies could negotiate with each other about what SW parts would be better off in the OS and pay royalties or whether it would be better to just provide the hooks for whatever SW would be inserted. The government might have to help set up a standards committee for this.

The alternative would be for Microsoft to make its code available and to give appropriately timed warnings when it would change. I think that this would be harder to control and slow innovation down.

These comments are mine, personally, and don't represent the views of my employer.

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